

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, last week I traveled across my district to talk about energy and announce my legislation, H.R. 6421, the Energy Independence Act. My district is fed up with what Congress has not done. It is time for us to do something when it comes to investing in domestic energy policy, and my legislation does just that.

Number one, it opens the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling. Two, it creates a tax credit to develop coal-to-liquid fuel technologies and projects. Three, it opens up ANWR and puts regulations and restrictions on it to make sure that ANWR is developed responsibly. Four, it creates an alternative energy trust fund to pay for renewables and alternative energies. And five, it streamlines the licensing process to allow for new nuclear power plants in our country.

Drilling alone will not earn us energy independence, but it is a critical step that we must do coupled with investment in alternative and renewable energies. Let's join together to begin to solve the energy problem in this country. Americans demand it; but more importantly, they deserve it.

BUSH ECONOMY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, the President can no longer deny that the labor market is in recession. June was the sixth straight month of job losses, and this year the economy has lost over half a million jobs in the private sector. We have 8.5 million unemployed Americans, more than at any other time since 2003.

High prices for gasoline and food are squeezing workers' pay. Real wages were lower in June than they have been since September 2006. The recovery rebates have been boosting consumption, and millions will benefit from the extension of unemployment benefits signed into law last week.

Clearly, we must stem the tide of rising job losses. We need a second stimulus package of infrastructure development and fiscal relief for our States.

SUPPORTING COLOMBIA'S
MILITARY FORCES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week three Americans, along with a dozen Colombian hostages held by FARC terrorists, were rescued by an elite team of Colombian soldiers. Included in the hostages was Ingrid Betancourt, a former candidate

for president of Colombia; and three U.S. contractors, Keith Stansel, Marc Gonsalves, and Thomas Howes.

President Alvaro Uribe, Ambassador Carolina Barco, and the Colombia military are to be commended for this extraordinary and well-planned rescue.

I am grateful for the incredible effort the Colombian government has made to strike back at the FARC terrorist rebels and to bring greater stability and security to their country.

I have visited Colombia, two of my sons were exchange students in Cali, and I know firsthand the hard work necessary to curb the drug trade, terrorist activity, and build Colombia's economy. America has been working to build a stronger strategic partnership with the people of Colombia for economic prosperity, led by U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

CONGRATULATING TOM POWERS

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Tom Powers, on his retirement as lieutenant with the Waterloo Fire Department. Tom will be retiring after 28 years of service to the city of Waterloo.

Tom became a Waterloo fire rescue firefighter on November 5, 1979, after serving honorably in the United States Navy, specializing in hydraulic systems on fighter aircraft. Tom was promoted to lieutenant with the Waterloo Fire Department on April 3, 1989. He was a certified EMT and hazmat team member, and received the Mayor's Volunteer Award. He was also selected as the department's Firefighter of the Year in 1986.

Our firefighters represent the very best of our communities, and Tom is no exception. He has worked tirelessly for the safety of our residents, and we honor his bravery here today. Due to his unwavering dedication, he has served, he has helped, he has saved, and he has protected.

I am proud to represent Tom and the city of Waterloo in Congress, and I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors, and ask you to join me today in honoring one of our hometown heroes.

NUCLEAR POWER IS NEEDED

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, according to the Energy Information Agency, the United States electricity demand is projected to increase up to 40 percent by the year 2030, and other countries are projecting similar increases. The rapid industrial develop-

ment of both China and India is already placing great pressure on global energy supplies.

Nuclear energy can help meet this growing demand by providing a clean, abundant source of electricity. Other countries seem to understand the potential benefits of nuclear power and have either commenced constructing, or have developed projections for new nuclear power plants. Countries like China, India, and Russia are already building new nuclear power plants. Even smaller countries like Vietnam and countries in the Middle East have begun exploring nuclear power as they too are facing demand shortages and they are feeling the pressures from the industrialized world to reduce CO₂ emissions.

The time has come for all of us to remove regulatory impediments and allow nuclear energy to continue helping this country to meet its growing energy demands.

GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, everywhere in Wisconsin and across the country, people are asking for help to reduce prices for their gasoline costs and their health care. Rural areas, like the district I represent in northeast Wisconsin, are affected most.

We need to work hard here in Congress to provide meaningful solutions to these problems. And our first step must be to solve our health care crisis by ending discrimination in health insurance everywhere; by saying if you are a citizen you are in; and if it is in your body, it should be covered; and by leveraging down insurance costs and creating the largest risk pool possible, and creating an open and transparent medical marketplace.

We must also design for the first time in this administration a meaningful national energy policy which includes three things: drilling for new oil across America with every single ounce of our oil sold only to U.S. citizens; investing in every source of renewable energy possible; and by preventing manipulation in the marketplace.

These efforts will get us back to the basics of becoming energy independent and a healthy Nation once again.

ENERGY AND AMERICAN
AGRICULTURE

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of representing the number one agricultural district in Ohio. During the recess, I visited three family farms to find out what issues are on farmers' minds. After speaking with these farmers, they unanimously agreed that the rising cost of energy is